

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 17 is amended. No new matter is added.

In the July 16 Restriction Requirement, election is required between method claims 1-16 and product claims 17-36. Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-16, with traverse.

Product claim 17 is amended for consistency with elected method claim 1 and now requires that the first and second molded parts are injection-molded parts.

The Office Action states that the product claims can be made by a materially different process. This argument no longer applies because the apparatus claims now similarly require first and second injection molded parts. The Office Action further asserts that the method can be used for toothbrushes having more than two molded parts. However, because of the open-ended "comprising" language, the product claim is also not constrained to only two molded parts. Moreover, like the method claim, the resulting first and second injection-molded parts of the product claims recite that they are not chemically bonded with one another during the injection molding. The product claims similarly require that one of the first and second parts is at least partially enclosed by the other, as required in the corresponding method claims. Thus, the product claims 17-36 now cannot be made by a materially different process than that recited in elected method claims 1-16. Accordingly, restriction is not proper because there is no *prima facie* showing of distinct inventions.

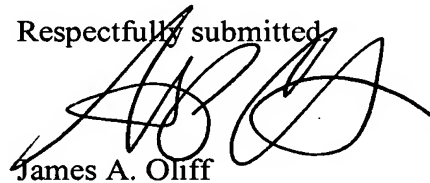
It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-36 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and

examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and examination of claims 1-36 are respectfully requested. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-36 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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